

Water tender and Engine Operations Refresher 2013

While many classes and exercises are underway across the country at academies and regional training centers to prepare for the upcoming fire season, Modoc employees had their own training session recently at a Water tender and Engine Operations Refresher in Canby. This was the second year that Assistant Fire Engine Operator Erin Brogan planned and instructed the class.



The three-day class offered new and experienced students the chance to refresh and improve their driving and pumping skills. It also served as a study session for individuals preparing to attend a Geographic Area Engine Academy. Furthermore, students were given the opportunity to help instruct and offer their expertise during the course. The students in this year's class averaged about five to seven years of wildland fire experience and two to four years of apparatus operating experience.



The refresher was broken into classroom instruction March 6 & 7 and field exercises on March 8. The topics covered were fleet maintenance, driving policies, freezing weather apparatus protection, pump theory and hydraulics.

The students spent time practicing real life fire scenarios to figure out how to supply a given fire with water, hose and equipment.

During the field exercises, participants maneuvered through a driving course that tested their “nosing” in and backing skills. After each run, students talked with each other to compare experiences, were measured on how close they got to their markers, and were given constructive feedback and tips on ways to improve their skills. The track was designed to simulate the courses at various engine academies and also to refresh students on the driving and parking situations they may encounter on wildland fires.



This class is just one of the examples of the extensive training that goes on every year to prepare for the fire season. Erin commented, “Driving is one of our most hazardous activities. The more we practice the safer we will be.” She looks forward to incorporating this course into the regular training curriculum on the Modoc.

